

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL
ROBERT T. BRAY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Robert T. Bray for his stewardship in Rhode Island's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program—Priority to Veterans. His contributions have been vital to the success of this program. His work with this important issue is simply unmatched.

Rhode Island's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program—Priority to Veterans addresses the needs of individuals with mental illness such as post traumatic stress disorder and trauma related disorders involved in the justice system. In recognition of the dramatically higher prevalence of trauma related disorders among veterans, this program prioritizes eligibility for veterans.

General Bray assumed the duties as The Adjutant General and the Commanding general of the Rhode Island National Guard on 17 February 2006. As The Adjutant General, he is responsible for the mission readiness of all Rhode Island National Guard units for both federal and state missions.

General Bray joined the South Dakota National Guard in December 1971. He received his commission as a Field Artillery officer through the South Dakota Military Academy in 1974. Prior to this assignment, General Bray served as the Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, United States Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In that capacity he served as the advisor to, and as the personal representative of, the Commanding General (CG) for all Army National Guard Field Artillery matters.

General Bray has been instrumental in advancing Rhode Island's correctional institutions. I wish him all the best as he continues his important work on behalf of our nation's heroes, our veterans. He will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

**THANKING ROTARY FOR 105 YEARS
OF SERVICE**

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1727, a resolution recognizing Rotary International for 105 years of service to the world and commending its members on their dedication to the mission and principles of their organization. As the Representative of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois which is home to Rotary Club International, I want to personally thank them for the service and commitment to making the world a more humane place.

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self," is an inspiring example for all Americans. Rotarians not only preach this motto, they live it by developing commu-

nity service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence.

I would like to especially recognize Rotary for its 25-year long campaign for the global eradication of polio. Since 1985, Rotarians have raised close to a billion dollars to immunize the children of the world and have pledged to contribute an additional \$500 million to the cause. In addition to this generous financial contribution, Rotary has provided an army of volunteers to promote and assist at national immunization days in polio-endemic countries around the world.

Due in large part to Rotary's efforts, the number of polio cases has fallen dramatically. In 1985, there were 350,000 known cases of polio in 125 countries. Today, more than 200 countries are polio-free. There are only four endemic nations—Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan—the lowest in history.

I want to again thank Rotary International for its 105 years of service. There is no question that the world is a far better place today because of their tremendous work.

**IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR.
DEFOREST SOARIES, JR.**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., a resident of Monmouth Junction, New Jersey and the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset. Today, the church community gathers to celebrate Rev. Soaries' 20th Pastoral Anniversary. Rev. Soaries' pastoral ministry focuses on spiritual growth, educational excellence, economic empowerment and faith-based community development. His advocacy and dedication to members of the community are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

Rev. Soaries' experience and activism in college laid a solid foundation for his future success. As a college student, Rev. Soaries led a campaign against drug use on campus. He later advocated for civil rights issues as a community organizer for the Urban League. He was also served as a National Coordinator in Operation PUSH. Rev. Soaries earned a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Fordham University, a Master's of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary. He is also the recipient of six honorary Doctoral Degrees from various institutions.

Rev. Soaries is well known for being an active agent for change. He has guided members of the church and local community with financial education assistance and foreclosure prevention. Specifically, dfree is a program developed by Rev. Soaries to encourage participants to attain financial self-sufficiency. The dfree strategy teaches individuals to live without debt, within their means and pay their bills on time. As a result of his outstanding accomplishments, Rev. Soaries was the focus of the third installment of CNN's "Black in America" documentary "Almighty Debt." It aired on October 21, 2010. This documentary highlighted

three families from First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens who were facing difficult financial times as a result of issues including the recession, home foreclosure, unemployment and college tuition payments. In April 2007, Radio Talk Show Host Don Imus used racially insensitive language to describe the members of the Rutgers University Women's Basketball team. Rev. Soaries served as the mediator and facilitator between these two groups.

From January 12, 1999 to January 15, 2002, Rev. Soaries served as New Jersey's thirtieth Secretary of State. He was the first African-American male to serve in this position. In his capacity, he served as senior advisor to the Governor on a wide range of public policies that effect various departments and constituencies. In December 15, 2003, Rev. Soaries was appointed to serve as Chairman of the United States Election Assistance Commission. This commission was established by Congress to implement the "Help America Vote Act" of 2002. Rev. Soaries' leadership in these endeavors is worthy of our praise and commendation.

As a result of his exceptional work, Rev. Soaries was recently recognized by both houses of the New Jersey Legislature for his religious and community leadership. His work has also been featured in the New York Times, Ebony Magazine, Black Enterprise and Government Executive Magazine.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in congratulating Rev. Dr. DeForest Soaries, Jr., as the parishioners celebrate his 20th Pastoral Anniversary. Rev. Soaries and the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens are tremendously valued in my district and the State of New Jersey.

**CONGRATULATING LIU XIAOBO ON
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE**

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo is a personal tragedy, a national shame, and an international challenge. The answer is clear: Mr. Liu should be released immediately.

For his more than two decades of advocating for freedom of speech, assembly, religion, peaceful democratic reform, transparency and accountability in China, Mr. Liu is serving an eleven-year sentence in a Chinese prison for "inciting subversion of state power." Those in China, like Mr. Liu, who have penned thoughtful essays or signed Charter 08 seek to advance debate, as the Charter states, on "national governance, citizens' rights, and social development" consistent with their "duty as responsible and constructive citizens." Their commitment and contribution to their country must be recognized, as the Nobel Committee has done, and as we do today, and their rights must be protected.

The Chinese government has said that awarding the Nobel Prize to Liu Xiaobo "shows a lack of respect for China's judicial system." I would like to take a moment to examine this claim. For it seems to me that what truly showed a lack of respect for China's judicial system were the numerous and well-documented violations of Chinese legal protections